e to Story Station U, your local radio broadcast where campus life meets American headlines! I'm your host, Madilyn Becker, and I'll be breaking down the recent news that could change your weekend plans- or maybe your future!

New headlines are constantly developing, so let's waste no time and get right into our first story of the week. We'll start with restrictions placed on President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan.

In August 2023, President Joe Biden announced his plan to forgive and reduce millions of peoples' student loans. The Saving on a Valuable Education Plan, also called the SAIVE Plan, aimed to calculate how much borrowers should pay in student loans based on their income and family size. The Biden administration claimed that this would reduce about 116 million dollars in student loan debt for 3.4 million Americans, according to whitehouse.gov. However, the plan is currently paused due to resistance from many Republicans, according to Politico News. Multiple Republican led states have filed lawsuits against The SAVE Plan, and in June, federal judges in Kansas and Missouri put key parts of The SAVE Plan on hold. In July, the entire plan was blocked. The Biden administration has asked the Supreme Court to undo this decision, while the plaintiffs have argued that The SAVE Plan will bring financial harm and substantial loss of business to student loan servicers. The case is currently being discussed in Appeals Courts. While we wait for the decision, many citizens currently paying student loans are unsure about what their future payments and financial standings will look like.

Next up: how you can help victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton!

Earlier this month, two deadly hurricanes named Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton left several southern states devastated, and, combined, claimed the lives of over 240 victims. We are far from the devastation , but you can make a difference in the lives of those affected by these natural disasters. There's a hurricane-relief donation box located in Sweet Arts Bakery on main street. Bring un-worn clothes, canned and non perishable food, and first aid items to the bakery for donation! Take a walk, enjoy a delicious treat, and do a good deed all in one afternoon! As busy students and professionals, however, I understand we are all so busy! If you don't have the chance to visit main street, there are several resources online that you can donate to, including relief efforts through the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, or Florida Disaster Fund from your phone!

We have so much more news to cover, including early voting for the presidential election, but first, let's break for a short PSA:

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"This is Story Station U on 89-3 WGSU, Geneseo's Voice of the Valley and now we'll be chatting about Early Voting for this year's general election…

That's right! If you have an absentee ballot sitting on your desk or in your dorm room, it's time to fill it out and mail it in! In New York, absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 5th. You can drop your ballot in any regular mailbox, including the one right outside of SUNY Geneseo's student union near the union bus stop. If you registered to vote here in Livingston County, the Livingston County Government Center is open for early voting everyday until November 3rd. For more information on where, when, and how to vote in Geneseo, you can visit the official Livingston County website online.

To close out our show today, let's dive into how your Instagram feed impacts this presidential election.

We all enjoy our nightly scroll on Instagram before bed, or maybe scrolling while procrastinating assignments… but your feed might be playing a way bigger role in your future than you realize. Today, everything is on social media, including presidential campaigns. Presidential candidates are campaigning online more than ever, and news sources are trying to flood your feed with their breakdown of this election. However, social media coverage of politics by many news sources may actually do more harm than good. By constantly posting about which candidate is ahead in polls and who has fundraised more money, these news sources paint the candidates as people who only care about themselves- and winning. The constant outpour of statistics also leaves many people- and in my experience, especially young people- disinterested in politics. I don't open Instagram after finishing a stressful homework assignment and hope to see poll numbers, and neither do many others. These social media polls also often lack real information about each candidate, leaving many voters, both experienced and first-time, feeling confused and unsure about who they want to vote for. This often leads to people feeling as if their vote doesn't matter, especially when they can see which candidate is winning anyway. Misinformation also spreads rapidly on social media. As fast as you can see pictures of your friends going pumpkin picking, you can see false or exaggerated information about political candidates. Whether it's in a campaign video one candidate posted about the other, or a biased news report, so much misinformation is found online. This only increases now around election time. By liking, sharing, and commenting on political posts, even memes you may see about the candidates, misinformation can be spread to millions of voters. This election season, take time to research the candidates before you vote. Your vote does matter. In the 2020 election, President Biden beat former president Donald Trump by about a 4.5% margin, but around 34% of people who were eligible to vote chose not to, according to New York Times and the University of Florida Election Lab. So, instead of scrolling through Instagram, find trustworthy news from reputable sources. If you registered to vote this election, get educated and go vote! If not, that's okay! Start researching reputable sources that you enjoy reading or listening to, and stay informed on what's going on outside of Geneseo! One of the most hotly debated topics outside of Geneseo recently has been Proposition 1. This is a proposition on the backside of your ballot to vote this year! This proposal aims to amend Article 1 Section 11 of the New York State Constitution, so that age is not a limiting factor when making medical decisions. By voting yes to, and passing Proposition 1, people under the age of 18 will be able to make medical decisions for themselves, without the consent of someone over 18. These decisions include those regarding receiving gender-affirming care, starting chemotherapy, and taking medications.

… And those are your top headlines today, Geneseo! Stay informed with the headlines that matter to you on Story Station U! News never stops, so join me next week, same place, same time, for the hottest headlines! In the meantime, go vote! Your vote matters! Thanks for listening to Story Station U! Before I leave you to get back to studying, here are a few more PSAs from WGSU's Full Circle!

Join SUNY Geneseo and CASA-Trinity on Friday, November 1st at 6 o'clock P-M in the MacVittie College Union for "Echoes IN RECOVERY: Stories of Courage and Healing." The event is a panel discussing issues relating to addiction in college with the intention to help reduce the stigma surrounding addiction and recover, as well as connect students with the resources that they need to thrive. The event is free and will be Friday, November 1st at 6 o'clock P-M in the MacVittie College Union…

SUNY will waive up to five application fees per student across its 64 colleges and universities through November 3. The two-week long Free Application initiative encourages high school seniors to find their perfect SUNY campus and apply for college early in the application period.